



County of Los Angeles  
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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
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Board of Supervisors  
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First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

December 7, 2005

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE**

**Report Card from the September 11 Commission On Terrorism Preparation**

On December 5, 2005, members of the bipartisan September 11 Commission presented Congress and the Bush Administration with a "report card" on the nation's preparedness to respond to a terrorist attack four years after September 11, 2001. The report card was a follow-up to the comprehensive report released by the Commission in July 2004.

Of interest to the County, Commission members gave the Federal government failing grades in two key areas:

- The failure to allocate homeland security funds based on risk and vulnerability to an attack.
- The lack of an adequate radio band for first responders.

Homeland security formula grant funds have not been allocated based on terrorist threats and risks as recommended by the Commission and supported by the Administration and the County. Instead, each state receives 0.75 percent of total funding with the balance allocated on a per capita basis. This allocation formula has provided California with the least funding per capita of any state, and Wyoming, the least populous state, with the most funding per capita. For example, in Federal Fiscal Year 2004, California received \$5.03 in homeland security formula grant funding per capita while Wyoming received \$37.94 per capita. If funding, instead, were allocated solely based on terrorist risks, California would receive far more funding per capita than Wyoming. Efforts to change the allocation formula have been blocked by Senators who represent the many small population states that currently receive a disproportionately high percentage of homeland security funding.

Budget reconciliation legislation (H.R. 4241/S. 1932), which is pending conference committee action, would set deadlines for broadcasters to move from analog to digital television, clearing 24 MHz in the 700 MHz band for public safety use, and use a portion of the revenue from the sale of freed spectrum to fund interoperable communications grants to public safety agencies. If budget reconciliation legislation is not enacted this year, Congress could address the spectrum sale in telecommunications reform legislation, which is scheduled for consideration in 2006.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:GC:MT:kg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist